

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1698	Press Mis.
Dated	7-7-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7th July 1866.

No. 184. Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 2nd July 1866, No. 29:—

1. Government will be well aware of the very general failure of the past season, and of the consequent scarcity of grain of all kinds throughout the country.

2. The District of South Arcot has not been exceptional, and it has fully shared in the distress so prevalent every where. I had hoped, by timely and liberal remissions, to stave off much of the anticipated suffering, and no doubt what has been done has, in a great degree, mitigated the evil. But an entire drought of seven continuous months, with a heat unprecedented in my own experience and that of the oldest native residents, have been followed by these consequences which were inevitable sooner or later from so unusual a state of things. I had hoped that the merchants here and in other parts of the District would not have acted as they are now doing, by hoarding up grain, in order to bring about famine prices for their own sordid and individual profit; but of course we cannot be surprised at their availing themselves of so favorable an opportunity of amassing wealth, and as authority cannot interfere with these matters the consequences are beginning to be seriously felt by the consuming classes, and rice and paddy are day by day attaining prices which place these grains altogether beyond the reach of ordinarily well-to-do persons in the world amongst the Native classes, and there is a cry for interference gaining strength each day. I have hitherto taken no notice of the petitions and threats occasionally held out of what is to follow the non-interference system; but I have simply watched events, in the hope that the expected rains would ease the public mind by at once giving employment to the agricultural classes, and lead the merchants of the towns to see the folly of closing their well-stored granaries; for there is no doubt grain is plentiful, but cupidity withholds it, and thus the effect is the same as an impending famine.

3. There are several well disposed and highly respectable Native gentlemen of this place, who are willing to come forward and help to meet the difficulty, provided their aid is supplemented by that of Government. Two Native gentlemen were with me this morning, representing the state of matters, and as Government will see by their letter they propose, on their own account, to bring into Cuddalore 8,000 Rupees worth of paddy or rice to be retailed, to all classes indiscriminately, at the wholesale price at which they may be able to purchase it in the baznars of Madras. They purpose to keep this grain in a prominent and well protected granary in old Town, Cuddalore, and to sell to all without any sort of profit to themselves. All they seek from Government is that their purchase to the extent mentioned may be sent down here by sea free of freight; and, as I feel that the time has arrived when I may legitimately seek of Government the aid thus applied for, as a means of relief to the populous town of Cuddalore and its numerous large outlying suburbs, I have no hesitation in soliciting that Government will be pleased to accede to the proposal made by the two gentlemen referred to, and whose letter to me on the subject is enclosed.

4. It is possible that Government may have a steamer available to bring down this supply of grain to Cuddalore, but if not, they may think it worth while

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th July 1866.

to order its transport by the regular coasting monthly steamers which, I believe, are under Government control.

5. At present rice is now selling here at 4 Measures the Rupee, but even at this rate, the merchants will not part with it in any quantity, alleging that the bulk of their stock is already disposed of, or that it is far less than it is well known to be; on the other hand, rice is selling at Madras, I observe, at 7½ Measures the Rupee, and, purchased wholesale, it may be bought possibly for less; and it is hoped, at all events, that if Government will only second the proposal now submitted, rice may be introduced here at 6½ or even 7 Measures, and if so, there is no doubt that the bazaar people will become alive to their folly, and will at once be induced to open their stores, and not to withhold grain as they are now doing.

6. I have felt that the proposal, coming voluntarily as it has done from persons not recognized as traders, may be viewed with favor by Government, and that Government may be disposed to enter into the project as a means of relief, which I may confidently state is really needed at this time, and which may prove a very great boon and blessing to all.

7. It is with reluctance I have interposed, but if only as an experimental measure, I do think that it would be good policy on the part of Government to aid the efforts thus proffered by the more wealthy of this place, who only seek to do good to their poorer fellow townsmen.

8. Awaiting the Government instructions and views, I have, &c.

No. 185.

ORDER THEREOF, 7th July 1866, No. 1,698.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are very sensible of the good intention of the charitable gentlemen whose letter the Collector submits, but they are unable to accede to their proposal.

2. Government intervention in South Arcot would be premature at present, and the price of rice at Madras has risen to a rate which would render it difficult for a purchaser here to undersell the traders at Cuddalore.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of South Arcot,
,, the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

C. W. Trade Esq.
Collector of South Arcot
Cuddalore.

Sir,

With reference to our conversation of this morning regarding the scarcity of the grain in the bazaar here for the immediate wants of the poor people, we are prepared to invest 7 or 8,000 Rupees in the purchase of Paddy or Rice at Madras at our own risk for sale here at cost price, provided Government will assist us in procuring free passage for the consignment by a steamer.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Cuddalore 3 Your Most Obedient Servant
2nd July 1866-3

S. Mootoo sarany
J. Jagannatha Pillai

1829

Time,

C. P. Drake

Letter of J. M. G. to J. M. G.

Edw. L. D. Smith Esq

Acting Chief Secretary

R. L. Carroll

John A. George



Incense will be

well known of the general
failure of the past season
and of the consequent scarcity
of grain of all kinds throughout
the country. W. D. D. D. D.

The Country. The District of
South Carolina has not been
exceptional, and it has fully
shared in the distresses so generally
experienced. I had hoped that
timely & liberal remissions of
state & much of the
anticipated

Decr 1972/60
 I received from the
 Corporation of the West
 dated 20 July 1966 No 29.
 From J. Westaway Esq
 21 Wyndham Place
 Weymouth
 Dorset
 to the Corporation of
 Weymouth
 dated 23 July 1966
 Referring to
 £8000 of £2000 shares
 for the Corporation of
 Weymouth to pay
 the freight.

Thurs. July 10th 1844

anticipated suffering and no
doubt what has been done has
in a great degree anticipated
the evil. But our future thought
of it continues with
a heart impressed with our
own experience & that of the
oldest & Sabine residents have
been followed by these consequences
which were inevitable sooner
or later from so unusual a
state of things. I have hoped
that the merchants here and
in other parts of the District
would not have acted as they
are now doing by hoarding
up from an order to bring
about famine prices for their
own selfish individual profit.
But experience we cannot but
suspect that they are waiting
themselves for a favorable an
opportunity of amassing
wealth, and as authorities
cannot

interfere with these
matters the consequences are
beginning to be seriously felt
by the consuming classes, and
rice & peardry are day by
day attaining prices which
place these grains above the
reach of ordinary
well-to-do persons in the world
amongst the Native classes,
I have a cry for interference
growing strength each day - I
have written to them no notice
of the petitions & threats
occasionally held out of what
is to follow the non-interference
system, but I have simply
watched events in the hope
that the expected rain would
ease the public mind by
at once giving employment
to the agricultural classes &
lead the merchants of the
towns

ours to see the folly of closing
their well stored granaries,
for there is no doubt grain is
plentiful but rapidly with-
drawing, and thus the effect is the
same as in a famine.

3. There are several
well disposed and highly re-
spectable Native gentlemen
of this place who are willing
to come forward and help to
meet the difficulty by pro-
viding the supplies which they
think of Government. Two
Native Gentlemen

were with me this morning
representing the state of
matters, and the Government
will see by their letter they
propose on their own account
to bring into the place 5000 lbs
worth of Paddy or Rice to be
retailed to all classes indis-
criminately at the wholesale
price.

price at which they may be
able to purchase them the
Bazaar of Meadown. They
propose to keep the grain in
a granary and well protected
from any would soon endeavor
to sell it all without any
sort of profit to themselves.
All they seek from Government
is that their purchase at the
extent mentioned may be sent
down here by sea free of
freight, and as I feel that the
time has arrived when I may
legitimately seek of Government
the aid thus applied for as a
means of relief to the populous
town of Meadown and its
surrounding large outlying suburbs
I have no hesitation in stating
that Government will be pleased
to accede to the proposal made
by the two gentlemen referred to
and

and whose letter to me on the subject is enclosed.

It is possible that Government may have a Steamer available to bring down this supply of grain & fodder, but I fear they may think it worth while to use its transport by the regular coasting monthly steamers which, I believe, are under Government contracts.

At present Rice is now selling here at 4 measures the Rupee, but even at this rate the merchants will not part with it in any quantity, alleging that the bulk of their stock is already disposed of or that this is less than it is well known to be; on the other hand Rice is selling at Moulana's Subseer, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ measures, the Rupee, & purchased wholesale at

may

may be bought possibly for less, and it is hoped at all events that if Government will only send the proposal now submitted Rice may be introduced here at 6 or even 7 measures, and if so there is no doubt that the poorer people will become active & their folly & evil at once be removed & their ~~eyes~~ ^{eyes} will be opened with all their fears and they are now saying

I have felt that the proposal coming voluntarily as it has done from persons not recognised as traders & as he seemed with favour to Government & that it would be a good & enter into the project as a means of relief which every confident state is really needed

needed at this time I think
may prove a very great
barn sleeping hall.

It is with reluctance
I have interposed, but I feel
as an experimental measure
I do think that it would
be good policy on the part
of government to aid the efforts
thus proffered by the more
wealthy of this place
who only seek to do good
to their poorer fellow citizens.

8. In carrying out the
Government instructions I
believe,

I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant

South Street
Wm. Office
Cuddalore
2^d July 1866

Charles Read
Mata

842
Mata

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 7th July 1866-

Read the following
letter from the Colly of South
Arcot:-

Reporting the general
scarcity of grain in the
district and forwarding with his
recommendation a letter
from certain merchants of
Cuddalore proposing to im-
port into Cuddalore some
8000 Rupples of Paddy, for which
the Govt. agree to pay the
freight.

(Here enter 22 July 1866,
No. 29/-)

The Govt are very
sensible of the good inten-
tion of the charitable gentle-
men whose letter the Collector
submitte but they are un-
willing to accede to their pro-
posal.

Govt intervention
in South Arcot would be
premature at present - &
the price of rice at Madras
has risen to a rate which
would

1866
The Govt are very
sensible of the good inten-
tion of the charitable gentle-
men whose letter the Collector
submitte but they are un-
willing to accede to their pro-
posal.

1866
The Govt are very
sensible of the good inten-
tion of the charitable gentle-
men whose letter the Collector
submitte but they are un-
willing to accede to their pro-
posal.

The Govt are very
sensible of the good inten-
tion of the charitable gentle-
men whose letter the Collector
submitte but they are un-
willing to accede to their pro-
posal.

would render it diffi-
cult for a purchaser
here to undersell the ex-
traders at Fuddalore.

111

1 Copy of the Collyer of South West Dept^{ment} of July 1850 Sept 13th
2 10th of April 1850 Sept 10th

35
4

W. H. H. H.

Revenue 1866 & 1867
for Govt for entry

18608

For the services
Government
for 1866 & 1867.

dict.

Report of the auditor
of the revenue of the
state of New York
for the year 1866
and 1867.

18608-1865

18608-1865